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25 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division *[Signature]*
Chief of Operations, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Recoverage of Vlone Bay: Submarines

1. You will recall that from time to time in the last six months on initiative with the Navy TALENT coverage has been obtained of Vlone Bay, Albania.

2. The point at interest is whether the four previously observed Z-class submarines are now at this location, one having been reported departed on 5 May and since that time not located by the Sixth Fleet. It is of concern to the Navy to establish the number now at Vlone, [Redacted]

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3. You may also recall that in the past on occasion the Navy has requested recoverage at, say, ten-day intervals, although the Navy was meanwhile making every effort to establish other sources to keep track on these submarines. We had never agreed to the recoverage at ten-day intervals but had left it that if, as, and when the Navy felt recoverage was absolutely imperative they would raise the matter again. This is such an occasion, caused in large measure by virtue of their inability to establish an adequate alternative source though they still have hope that such may come about.

4. I am informed informally by the Navy that some time ago the JCS approved a photographic effort on the Navy's part to meet this requirement. This was cleared, I gather, by some representative of the JCS with General Cabell, who nonconcurred and is reported to have said that if this was really required it should be accomplished by TALENT.

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5. It seems to me that unless there are operational considerations that are different from those obtaining in the Middle East we should consider the Navy's requirement for Vlone Bay on the same terms. Currently, our procedure is to recover the Middle East on a monthly basis as a means of keeping watch of that situation to guard against some surprise in that troubled area while recognizing that we do not have in each monthly recoverage a critical emergency such as from time to time we have had there.

6. Recommendation: That approval be given for immediate coverage of Vlone Bay and that as long as the situation in the Mediterranean is tense Vlone Bay be included as a proper area for coverage on the occasion of the monthly recoverage of the Middle East. (In this connection, I should remind you that I check with the ARC each month prior to monthly recoverage to ensure that the basis of our monthly program is still firm. In the future, if the foregoing were approved, this would likewise be our practice with Vlone Bay.)

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JAMES Q. REBER
Chief, Special Requirements Staff
DPD-DD/P

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CONCUR:

WILLIAM BURKE
Acting Chief
DPD-DD/P

Chief of Operations
DPD-DD/P

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Recommendation in paragraph 6
APPROVED:

25 MAY 1959

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

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